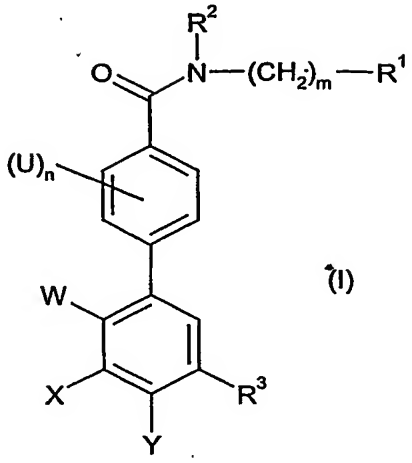
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is a phenyl group which may be optionally substituted;

R^2 is C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one to three groups independently selected from OH, oxo, cyano, $-S(O)_pR^4$, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NCOR^5$, $-COOR^5$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NHSO_2R^5$ and $-NHCONHR^5$;

R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_q-R^7$ or $-NH-CO-R^8$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, heterocyclyl optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, and phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen;

R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

when q is 0 to 2, R^7 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-CONHR^9$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12}, heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12} and heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12}, and

when q is 2, R^7 is additionally selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, $NHCOR^9$, $NHCONHR^9$, NR^9R^{10} and OH;

R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_r-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_s$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}, $-(CH_2)_s$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14}, $-(CH_2)_s$heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} and $-(CH_2)_s$fused bicyclyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by up to two substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen,

R^{10} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring optionally containing one additional

heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{11} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-CONR^{10}R^{15}$, $-NHCOR^{15}$, $-SO_2NHR^{15}$, $-NHSO_2R^{15}$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-Z-(CH_2)_t$-phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, $-Z-(CH_2)_t$-heterocyclyl or $-Z-(CH_2)_t$-heteroaryl wherein the heterocyclyl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{12} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen, or

when R^{11} and R^{12} are adjacent to each other they may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed R^{11} and R^{12} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_r-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-CONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-NHCOR^{17}$, $-SO_2NHR^{16}$, $-NHSO_2R^{17}$, halogen, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{18}R^{19}$, oxy, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups and heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups,

R^{14} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and $-NR^{18}R^{19}$, or

R^{13} and R^{14}, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{13} and R^{14} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more R^{14} groups,

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{16} and R^{17}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{20}, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_r-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{19} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{18} and R^{19}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a three- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{20}, wherein the ring may contain up to one double bond and the ring is optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups;

R^{20} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R^{21} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, oxy, $-CH_2OC_{1-6}$alkyl, trichloromethyl and $-N(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$;

U is selected from methyl and halogen;

W is selected from methyl and chlorine;

X and Y are each selected independently from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;
Z is selected from -O- and a bond;
m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, and may be optionally substituted with up to two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl;
n, p, q, r and t are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;
s is selected from 0 and 1; and
k is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by one or two OH groups.

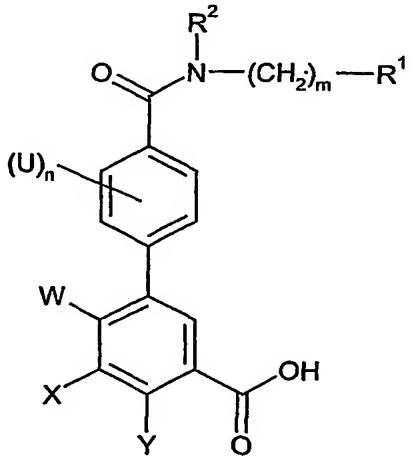
4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein m is 0 or 1.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^4 is $-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1 as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. A process for preparing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (XXII)



(XXII)

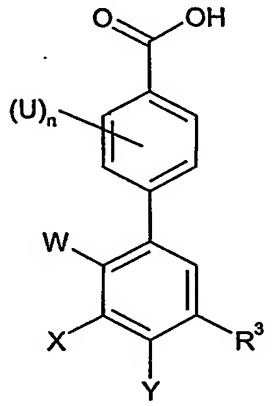
wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, X, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula (XXIII)

$$R^7\text{-}(CH_2)_q\text{-}NH_2 \quad \text{(XXIII)}$$

wherein R^7 and q are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions, optionally converting the acid compound (XXII) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXIII);

(b) reacting a compound of formula (XXIV)



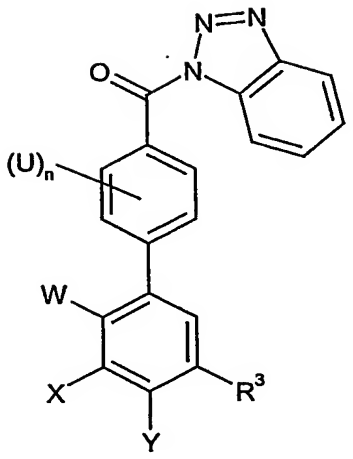
(XXIV)

wherein R^3, U, W, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV)

$$R^1(CH_2)_mNR^2H \quad \text{(XXV)}$$

wherein R^1, R^2 and m are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions;

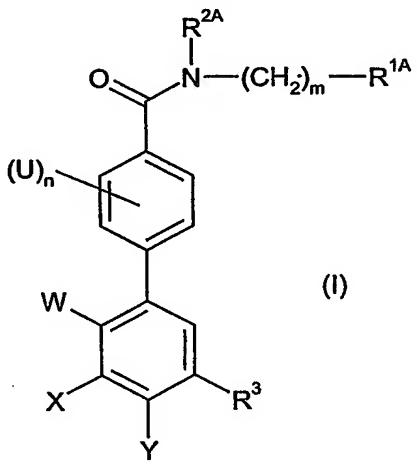
(c) reacting a compound of formula (XXVI)



(XXVI)

wherein R^3, U, W, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV) as defined above;

(d) functional group conversion of a compound of formula (XXVII)

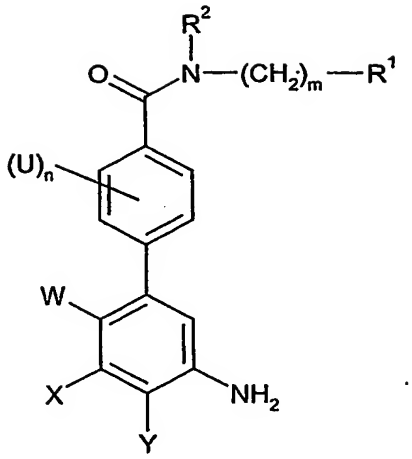


(I)

(XVIII)

wherein R^3, U, W, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1 and R^{1A} and R^{2A} are R^1 and R^2 as defined in claim 1 or groups convertible to R^1 and R^2,
to give a compound of formula (I); or

(e) reacting a compound of formula (XXVIII)



(XXVIII)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, X, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXIX)

$$R^8CO_2H$$

(XXIX)

wherein R^8 is as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions, optionally converting the acid compound (XXIX) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXVIII).

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers

9. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in therapy.

11. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.